

Division of Child Support Services

Strengthening Georgia by ensuring children receive support from both parents.

542,222

children were served financially through child support orders in Georgia in FFY15.

\$726 million

amount distributed through Child Support Services in Georgia.

There were **403,410** cases; **361,555** parents were under court orders; **61.29%** of parents make consistent payments.



ADMINISTRATIVE COLLECTION & SERVICE TOOLS

- Withholding child support from paychecks or unemployment benefits
- Intercepting federal and/or state income tax refunds to pay child support arrears
- Reporting parents delinquent in child support payments to credit bureaus
- Suspending or revoking driver's, professional, occupational, hunting and/or fishing licenses for failure to pay child support
- Filing liens and levies on tangible or intangible property
- Denying passports if more than \$2,500 in child support is owed
- Seizing bank accounts after notice

Helping Parents Support their Children

FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

Through the Fatherhood Program, the Department works with parents who are unemployed or underemployed and are, as a result, unable to pay their full child support obligations. The program connects parents with resources leading to jobs that pay above minimum wage, greater self sufficiency and more emotional, parental and financial involvement in the lives of their children. Georgia has the only statewide program in the country.

PARENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY COURT

The Parental Accountability Court (PAC) program is a joint effort of the Department and Superior Court Judges to offer an alternative to incarceration and to help chronic non-payers of child support make regular payments. The program utilizes community resources to address barriers that keep parents from meeting their support obligations. Each program, including the services provided to participants, is tailored to the needs of the local community. Superior Court Judges provide judicial oversight and collaborate with PAC coordinators to implement the program. To graduate, participants must meet their child support obligations for a minimum of six consecutive months.

Review & Modification of Child Support Orders

Individuals with child support cases may request a review and modification of their child support order every three years. However, a review may be granted sooner if the requesting party has a substantial change in circumstances. Situations that may qualify for a more frequent review include but are not limited to:

- Diagnosis of a serious illness or an accident that impacts either party's ability to work and the resulting condition is expected to last for more than a year
- Either party begins receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits since the last order
- Parent suffers a 25 percent or greater involuntary loss of income
- Parent receives an unanticipated windfall of money (i.e. lottery, inheritance, etc.)
- Documented proof that custody of a child has changed from the custodian



Available Summer 2016: A new mobile application that will allow parents to make online payments and receive alerts about changes in their case status. The app will be available on Apple and Android devices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Custodial and noncustodial parents may apply for services, enter and receive information about their case, make a payment online or check payment information by using the Customer Online Services

portal at www.dcss.dhs.georgia.gov. Users receive a password to protect confidentiality. For information about the Georgia Fatherhood Program and other Community Outreach Services, call **1-844-MYGADHS (1-844-694-2347)**.



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